
REMARKS

Claims 1 and 18 are currently amended. Applicant contends that the amendments contained herein are supported by the Specification as filed and thus do not constitute new matter.

Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. § 102

Claims 1, 4-5, 8, 12, 18-19, 21, and 40-43 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102 (b) as being anticipated by Konefal et al. (U.S. Patent 6,039,195). Applicant believes that the Examiner intended to reject claims 1, 4-5, 8, 12, 18-19, 21, and 40-43 under 35 U.S.C. § 102 (e) rather than 35 U.S.C. § 102 (b) because Konefal et al. issued after the filing date of the present application on an application filed before the filing date of the present application. Applicant respectfully traverses the rejection of claims 1, 4-5, 8, 12, 18-19, 21, and 40-43.

Claim 1, as currently amended, is directed to a cap and vessel including a threaded cap having a non-circular cap flange and a threaded vessel having a non-circular vessel flange of substantially the same shape as the cap flange. The vessel flange is connected directly to the vessel and extends radially from the vessel. The threaded cap is secured to the threaded vessel when the cap flange and vessel flange are aligned.

Applicant carefully reviewed Konefal et al. and found no indication of a *non-circular vessel flange of substantially the same shape as the cap flange, where the vessel flange is connected directly to the vessel and extends radially from the vessel and where the threaded cap is secured to the threaded vessel when the cap flange and vessel flange are aligned*, as in claim 1. Therefore, Konefal et al. does not include what is included in claim 1, and claim 1 should be allowed.

Claims 4-5, 8, 12, and 40-41 depend directly or indirectly from claim 1 and thus include patentable limitations of claim 1. Therefore, claims 4-5, 8, 12, and 40-41 should be allowed.

Claim 18, as currently amended, is directed to a method for sealing a vessel, including the steps of placing a threaded cap having a non-circular cap flange on a threaded vessel having a corresponding non-circular vessel flange that is connected

directly to the vessel and extends radially from the vessel; and securing the threaded cap to the threaded vessel a first time by rotating the threaded cap in one direction, the threaded cap secured to the threaded vessel when the cap flange and vessel flange are aligned.

Applicant carefully reviewed Konefal et al. and found no indication of placing a threaded cap having a non-circular cap flange on a threaded vessel having a corresponding non-circular vessel flange that is *connected directly to the vessel and extends radially from the vessel*; and securing the threaded cap to the threaded vessel a first time by rotating the threaded cap in one direction, the threaded cap secured to the threaded vessel when the *cap flange and vessel flange are aligned*, as in claim 18. Therefore, Konefal et al. does not include what is included in claim 18, and claim 18 should be allowed.

Claims 19 and 42-43 depend directly from claim 18 and thus include patentable limitations of claim 18. Therefore, claims 19 and 42-43 should be allowed.

Claim 20 depends directly from claim 18, without being amended, and provides that the threaded vessel and threaded cap each have multiple disjointed threads. Applicant found no indication in Konefal et al. of a threaded vessel and a threaded cap each having multiple disjointed threads, as in claim 20. Therefore, claim 20 is allowable. Claim 21 depends directly from claim 20 and thus includes patentable limitations of claim 20. Therefore, claim 21 should be allowed.

Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. §103

Claims 1-9, 12, 18-22, and 40-47 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Konefal et al. in view of Long, Jr. (U.S. Patent 5,673,222). Applicant respectfully traverses the rejection of claims 1-9, 12, 18-22, and 40-47.

Claim 1, as currently amended, is directed to a cap and vessel including a threaded cap having a non-circular cap flange and a threaded vessel having a non-circular vessel flange of substantially the same shape as the cap flange. The vessel flange is connected directly to the vessel and extends radially from the vessel. The threaded cap is secured to the threaded vessel when the cap flange and vessel flange are aligned.

Applicant carefully reviewed Konefal et al. and Long, Jr. and found no indication or suggestion in either of a *non-circular vessel flange of substantially the same shape as the cap flange, where the vessel flange is connected directly to the vessel and extends radially from the vessel* and where the threaded cap is *secured to the threaded vessel when the cap flange and vessel flange are aligned*, as in claim 1. Therefore, Konefal et al. and Long, Jr. alone or in combination do not include or suggest what is included in claim 1, and claim 1 should be allowed.

Claims 2-9, 12, and 40-41 depend directly or indirectly from claim 1 and thus include patentable limitations of claim 1. Therefore, claims 2-9, 12, and 40-41 should be allowed.

Claim 18, as currently amended, is directed to a method for sealing a vessel, including the steps of placing a threaded cap having a non-circular cap flange on a threaded vessel having a corresponding non-circular vessel flange that is connected directly to the vessel and extends radially from the vessel; and securing the threaded cap to the threaded vessel a first time by rotating the threaded cap in one direction, the threaded cap secured to the threaded vessel when the cap flange and vessel flange are aligned.

Applicant carefully reviewed Konefal et al. and Long, Jr. and found no indication or suggestion in either of placing a threaded cap having a non-circular cap flange on a threaded vessel having a corresponding non-circular vessel flange that is *connected directly to the vessel and extends radially from the vessel*; and securing the threaded cap to the threaded vessel a first time by rotating the threaded cap in one direction, the threaded cap secured to the threaded vessel when the *cap flange and vessel flange are aligned*, as in claim 18. Therefore, Konefal et al. and Long, Jr. alone or in combination do not include or suggest what is included in claim 18, and claim 18 should be allowed.

Claims 19-22 and 42-43 depend directly or indirectly from claim 18 and thus include patentable limitations of claim 18. Therefore, claims 19-22 and 42-43 should be allowed.

Claim 44 includes a threaded vessel having a vessel flange of substantially the same shape as the cap flange, where the threaded cap is secured to the threaded vessel after being rotated in one direction approximately 180 degrees or less.

Applicant carefully reviewed Konefal et al. and Long, Jr. and found no indication or suggestion in either of a threaded cap that is secured to a threaded vessel after being rotated in one direction *approximately 180 degrees or less*, as in claim 44. Therefore, Konefal et al. and Long, Jr. alone or in combination do not include or suggest what is included in claim 44, and claim 44 should be allowed.

Claim 45 depends directly from claim 44 and thus includes patentable limitations of claim 44. Therefore, claim 44 should be allowed.

Claim 46 includes securing the threaded cap to the threaded vessel a first time by rotating the threaded cap in one direction approximately 180 degrees or less.

Applicant carefully reviewed Konefal et al. and Long, Jr. and found no indication or suggestion in either of securing the threaded cap to the threaded vessel a first time by rotating the threaded cap in one direction *approximately 180 degrees or less*, as in claim 46. Therefore, Konefal et al. and Long, Jr. alone or in combination do not include or suggest what is included in claim 46, and claim 46 should be allowed.

Claim 47 depends directly from claim 46 and thus includes patentable limitations of claim 46. Therefore, claim 46 should be allowed.

CONCLUSION

Claims 1 and 18 are currently amended. Applicant believes that the claims are in condition for allowance and respectfully requests a withdrawal of the Final Rejection and a Notice of Allowance be issued in this case. If the Examiner has any questions regarding this application, please contact the undersigned at (612) 312-2208.

Respectfully submitted,

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